

Council workshop
August 21, 2007

Councilman King called to order council budget workshop of August 21, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Council members Jean Arrant, Ray Jackson, and Charlie Simmons. Mayor J.M. Marse and Council member Mike Helton was absent. Also present: City Clerk Robin Haynes.

Councilman Simmons gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Clerk Haynes presented council with the proposed revenues and expenses as had been discussed, with any large items requested or changes made as noted:

- Payroll was figured at 3% above current rates
- Streets – capital outlay funds for re-paving
- Travel – increase for mileage allowances – Mayor Marse (\$350), Mike Helton (\$125) and training programs for clerk, planner
- Parks – capital outlay for equipment and play surface area upgrades
- City hall landscaping
- North Bay will carry forward some capital outlay funds for the new year to build a storage building (\$30,000)
- Water fund to carry forward some capital outlay funds not expended (\$100,000)
- General fund to carry forward some capital outlay funds not expended (\$75,000)
- Sewer funds CDBG grant funds in and out
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Mayor Marse arrived at 7:10 pm.

Discussion included:

Councilman King requests SCADA systems at the wells, two trucks, and possibly rebuild the service truck. Councilman King pointed out to council that he has “inspection fees” listed as revenue. This would be a \$1.00 increase on the water bill for the purpose of hiring a person to inspect/maintain fire hydrants.

Councilman Simmons presented a draft budget for the Freeport fire department allowing for one fire-fighter per shift and a fire chief with a possible part-time during “peak hours”. He has been working with the county. His proposal would require \$111,774 in funds from the City, \$55,000 from MSBU funds and the remaining \$215,603 being requested from the County.

Councilman Simmons discussed the Park at Hammock Bay. The major expense will be the maintenance of the park after construction is completed. He suggested hiring an inmate crew from Walton County Correctional Facility for the purpose of helping to maintain the park area and the balance of the day they would be available for projects as needed in the City limits.

Councilman Jackson requested funds for hiring an employee and purchasing a service truck.

At the end of the workshop, council agreed on a proposed budget of:

- General fund - \$2,141,085.00
- Water fund - \$1,465,400.00
- North Bay fund - \$277,000.00
- Sewer fund - \$ 938,000.00
- TOTAL \$4,821,485.00

With no other business, Councilman Simmons motioned to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Robin Haynes, City Clerk

Earl King, President of Council